



California Postsecondary Education Commission

Improving Teacher Quality (ITQ) State Grants Program Update

The ITQ Program provides federally funded grants to institutions of higher education for professional development for teachers. The program is authorized under Title II of the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) of 2000. This update includes information on the following:

- ♦ *The next Request for Proposal (RFP) and grant award process which is set to begin in early 2005. This RFP would be for the second round of grant awards since the ITQ program was implemented under NCLB.*
- ♦ *Development of a document designed to inform institutions of higher education, school districts, policy makers, and the public about the ITQ program.*
- ♦ *Additional program activities.*

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The Commission advises the Governor and Legislature on higher education policy and fiscal issues. Its primary focus is to ensure that the state's educational resources are used effectively to provide Californians with postsecondary education opportunities. More information about the Commission is available at www.cpec.ca.gov.

Overview

The California Postsecondary Education Commission (CPEC) has administered federally funded teacher professional development grants to institutions of higher education (IHEs), in partnership with local education agencies and nonprofit organizations, since the grant program was first established in 1984.

Over the last two decades, CPEC has awarded nearly \$80 million in federal funds to IHE's for approximately 200 projects providing professional development opportunities to prospective, new, and veteran K-12 teachers. Now funded under Title II of the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act of 2000, the Improving Teacher Quality (ITQ) Program focuses on providing professional development that helps to provide every child in the nation's schools with a "highly qualified teacher" as defined by federal law.

In 2003, CPEC awarded 20 ITQ grants to institutions of higher education working in partnership with local education agencies from Shasta and Humboldt counties to San Diego. These multi-year grant projects have just concluded their first year of operation and report good progress toward achieving their goals. All are funded to continue through the 2004-05 academic year.

The top two current priorities for ITQ administrative staff include a new round of grants now in the initial phase, and development of an informational document on the ITQ program for educators and policy makers.

2005 Request for Proposals

CPEC received a 2004-5 allocation of \$8 million in NCLB Title II funds. Some of those funds support the second year of ongoing projects that were awarded in late 2003. A Request for Proposals (RFP) and grant award process is now being put in place to support additional new grants in 2005.

Below is a draft calendar for the process. These dates may be adjusted as necessary as the process is finalized. The target grant award date of August 1 will allow projects to begin during the 2005-06 school year. The new RFP is expected to be similar to the one used in the ITQ competition in 2003, although some minor changes will be made. A copy of the final Request for Proposals will be provided to the Commission when it is released in January.

| 2005 ITQ Request for Proposals – DRAFT CALENDAR | |
|--|-----------------------|
| Activity | Target Date(s) |
| Notice of RFP availability | January 18 |
| Technical Assistance Workshops | February 14-25 |
| Deadline to submit notice of intent to apply | March 21 |
| Training sessions for proposal readers | April 28-May 7 |
| Deadline to submit proposals | May 16 |
| Proposals reviewed and rated | May 19-June 15 |
| Reader panels to select finalist applicants | June 16-22 |
| Interviews with finalist applicants | July 11-22 |
| Announcement of grant awards | August 1 |

Informational brochure on ITQ

Since 2000, when the Improving Teacher Quality program was implemented under NCLB and replaced its predecessor, the Eisenhower professional development program, no information has been produced by CPEC to explain the new program and its contributions to teacher professional development. Commission staff has determined that CPEC needs such an informational document regarding the ITQ program.

This document, now in production, is the first general informational material made available regarding the ITQ as it is implemented in California. It will be provided to California postsecondary institutions, K-12 local educational agencies, state policymakers, and other stakeholders. The eight-page brochure will explain what the ITQ program is, how it operates, and the importance of its administration by CPEC as the State Agency for Higher Education. It will provide information on lessons learned throughout the administration of these grants and also profile some of the successful projects funded over the years.

CPEC has contracted with the California Department of Education publications unit, CDE Press, to design and print the brochure. It is anticipated that final copies or print-ready drafts will be available at the December 15 Commission meeting.

Additional activities

In addition to the activities described above, CPEC provided supplemental grants of approximately \$100,000 to seven of the 21 projects that just concluded three years of activities under the previous Eisenhower program. These projects will continue for an additional year, through September 30, 2005, to

allow for dissemination of their products and strategies to a wider audience and/or to increase the sustainability of their professional development activities. The projects that received these augmentations are:

| Project # | IHE | K-12 LEA | Project Title | Amount |
|------------------|---|---------------------------------------|--|---------------|
| 1101 | California State University, Northridge | Reseda High School | Sustainability and Dissemination in the Development of Teacher/Student Researchers | \$99,090 |
| 1112 | San Diego Science and Space Foundation | Santee School District | Fleet Inquiry Institute | \$99,982 |
| 1124 | University of California, Irvine | Orange County Department of Education | ArtsCore Dissemination Project | \$100,000 |
| 1129 | Shasta College | Shasta County Office of Ed. | Dissemination Sustainability/Project ARISE | \$96,334 |
| 1133 | Los Angeles Educational Partnership | Los Angeles School District | Humanities and Science: Bridging Two Worlds | \$100,000 |
| 1140 | Lawrence Hall of Science, Berkeley | Tahoe Truckee Unified School District | Mountain Region Science and Reading Academy | \$100,000 |
| 1148 | California State University, Long Beach | Garvey Elementary School District | TLC (Teaching Learning Collaborative) | \$99,993 |

Additional grants were awarded in 2004 to existing projects to incorporate a scientifically based research component in their professional development activities. These grants will develop data on the ways that effective professional development design and activities change teacher practice in the classroom and help to improve student achievement. The grants will contribute to a better understanding of successful professional development programs and serve to inform future program design and grant criteria. These grants include:

| Project # | IHE | K-12 LEA | Project Title | Amount |
|------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|---------------|
| 1124 | University of California, Irvine | Orange County Department of Education | ArtsCore | \$51,844 |
| 1184 | San Jose State University | East Side Union High School District | Mathematics Assessment at the High School | \$51,045 |
| ITQ-01-131 | University of California, Davis | Markham Elementary School | Markham Mathematics Collaborative | \$26,102 |
| ITQ-01-139 | University of California, Santa Cruz | East Side Union High School District | Professional Development Initiative for Mathematics and Literacy Teachers | \$137,820 |
| ITQ-01-240 | University of California, Irvine | Orange County Department of Education | An Experimental Study of Middle-School Mathematics Teachers' Professional Development On-line | \$91,991 |

Through the Improving Teacher Quality grant program, CPEC continues to provide leadership in teacher professional development that supports the goal of providing a highly qualified teacher in every classroom.

ITQ and its predecessor programs have helped to support standards-based educational reform in California and to meet the state's commitment to professional development for prospective, new, and veteran teachers.